

rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *in re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPT2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

However, Applicants would respectfully point out that claim 1, as amended on September 6, 2005, does include the express recitation (duration for a). Thus it is not necessary to “read into the claims” the subject language. The language is already in the claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not considered applicants’ claims according to proper procedure. Thus it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in light of applicant’s September 6, 2005 Amendment and issue a new office action in this matter.

Prior to filing this response, applicants’ attorney contacted the Examiner on February 16, 2007 to discuss the issuance of a new Office Action. Initially, the Examiner had indicated she would do this. Later, on March 2, 2007, the Examiner called applicants’ attorney to advise that the USPTO’s automated system will not allow her to issue a new Office Action unless applicant responds to the December 5, 2006 Office Action.

Hence applicants are submitting this request for reconsideration.

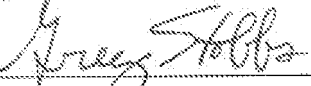
Application No.: 10/731,322

Docket No.: 9637-000077/US

Applicant believes no fee is due with this request. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 9637-000077/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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